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Country cooperation frameworks and related matters

Extension of the first country cooperation framework for Togo

Note by the Administrator

Period of extension: 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2001

I. Background and reasons

A. The socio-economic situation of the country

1. The first country cooperation framework (CCF) for Togo for the period January 1998-December 2000 was approved by the Executive Board at its second regular session of 1998.

2. Since the early 1990s, Togo has been experiencing economic difficulties. When donors withdrew, following the social and political upheaval of 1991-1993, private investment shrank; this in turn reduced economic activity, with negative consequences for employment (about 30 per cent of the working population are unemployed) and poverty, which affects over 72 per cent of the population. School enrolment fell to 63 per cent (1997), compared with over 70 per cent in the 1980s, and life expectancy dropped to 48.8 years in 1997, compared with 54 in 1990. Since 1995, the Government has tackled this situation by implementing a programme of adjustment and economic recovery, together with a national poverty elimination programme.

B. Reasons for the extension

3. The coordination exercise which has been in progress in recent years within the United Nations system in Togo will make it possible to harmonize agencies' assistance programmes from 2002 onwards. The process of drawing up the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework was

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launched in February 2000 and is due to be completed by October 2000. The current cooperation framework for Togo, which ends in 2000, therefore needs to be extended to bring it into line with the UNICEF and UNFPA cycles. The country review will take place in June 2000, and its findings will be used for the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which will serve as the reference base for preparing the second cooperation framework.

II. Objectives

A. Objectives and areas for intervention during the extension period

4. The current cooperation framework has two main themes: combating poverty and enhancing capacity for management and governance. UNDP assistance in 2001 will focus on the following three objectives:

(a) *Coordinating the anti-poverty campaign and improving the means of subsistence of the poor.* UNDP cooperation is based on two strategic instruments: (i) the establishment of a support fund for village development; and (ii) a national mechanism for the coordination and follow-up of anti-poverty initiatives.

(b) *Enhancing capacity for macroeconomic management and governance.* Based on the conclusions of the investigative mission which took place at the end of 1999, a support project is now being drawn up. Three areas for intervention have been identified:

(i) Overhauling the mechanisms for gathering, processing, analysing and disseminating economic and social information, and building capacity for the strategic management of development;

(ii) Support for establishing the decentralization process, and training for those involved to enable them to exercise their rights and duties;

(iii) Support for the establishment and operation of the Audit Office.

(c) *Mobilizing the United Nations system and the other partners for poverty reduction.* The process of drawing up the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework is in progress, with the participation of all partners (the Government, donors and civil society organizations). In this connection, special importance will be given to promoting the 20/20 initiative.

III. Recommendations

5. The Administrator wishes to inform the Executive Board that he has approved the extension of the first country cooperation framework for Togo for a period of one year, beginning on 1 January 2001.